

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 18, 2021

Work Session Minutes

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a work session on Tuesday, May 18 2021, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Wayne Owen, Vice Chair Gladys Garland, Donna Hudson, Mel Battle, Trudy Blackwell, and Vennie Beggarly. Tracy Stanley participated virtually. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes. *(Meeting was livestreamed via Zoom.)*

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Policy # 206, Board of Education Meetings Remote Participation

A draft copy of Policy # 206 was shared with the Board of Education. Wording was taken from the North Carolina School Boards Association. Upon reviewing other local districts the wording is very similar with what is presented. There were no suggestions for any changes to the draft copy.

It was noted that Policy # 205 (Board of Education Meetings and Procedures) will need to be amended to reflect the voting methods. Other changes to Policy # 205 included if the paragraph regarding "Board Committees" needs to be omitted as the board has not used committees for any reason. Other suggestions including changing wording to the sentence regarding the date of a board meeting may be changed.

Upon no further comments, Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Mel Battle, to bring Policy # 205 and # 206 to the May 24th meeting for a first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

The changes will be included in the first reading draft to the board at the next meeting.

Policy # 605, Graduation Requirements

Changes to Policy # 605 were discussed. It was shared that a portion of the wording of the State Requirements will be changed to make the reading easier for parents to understand. Also, the paragraph regarding Early Graduation will be changed to indicate that the names will be presented to the board no later than the second meeting in January.

Other concerns included NJROTC being included. Discussion took place noting what a worthwhile program this was. It was shared that the Navy was the one who actually pulled the course and it was noted the participation declined and was borderline with what was required.

Other discussion took place regarding the alternative program and the wording regarding graduating and walking the stage. Dr. Carter will confirm and make appropriate changes to the policy if needed.

Upon no further comments, Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Donna Hudson, to bring Policy # 605 to the May 24th meeting for a first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy # 607, Class Rank

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Discussion took place regarding new Policy # 607 which aligns with the separate North Carolina School Board Association policy on class rank. The new policy addresses items that were not included in Policy # 605 which includes Latin Honors and how students will be recognized.

Question was asked how grades are decided and what timeframe for class rank. Dr. Carter shared that with the ten point grading scale now in place throughout the State there can be multiple students with the same class rank. The students rank is listed on the transcript. With Latin Honors, students are honored for their academic accomplishments but their class rank is also listed on their transcript for scholarship and university application purposes. Dr. Carter was asked to check on how Junior Marshalls are selected.

Upon no further comments, Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to bring Policy # 607 to the May 24th meeting for a first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Meetings held during the Summer (Summer Hours for Employees)

Discussion took place regarding employees working 10-hour days during the summer and it was suggested to only have morning meetings to assist employees. Other discussion took place regarding only having one meeting in July.

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to have one meeting in July (July 26, 2021) beginning at 9:00 a.m. and for June 28th meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously. (*Donna Hudson noted she would not be in attendance at the June 28th meeting*).

Master Board Training

Dates were discussed for the next session for Master Board Training. It was agreed to meet on July 28, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to hold the next Master Board Training on July 28, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaque for Bartlett Yancey Senior High School

Discussion took place regarding the plaque and what should be listed on it. A sample was provided from Dewberry and Davis along with copies of what is on the plaques at North and South Elementary and NL Dillard Middle School. There was no consistency with any of the plaques and it was shared there is no right or wrong way in making the decision of what to include. Board members shared their thoughts on what they would like to have included.

Upon no further discussion, Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to include current sitting board members only.

Discussion took place regarding the motion did not include the Superintendent or the architect and general contractor.

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Vennie Beggarly amended her motion to include current sitting board members, Superintendent, architect and general contractors. Gladys Garland amended her second of the motion to include the current sitting board members, Superintendent, architect and general contractors. The motion carried 5-1 with Hudson voting "No." (*Tracy Stanley participated remotely and did not vote*).

Dr. Carter asked for confirmation of the date to be included on the plaque. It was agreed it should be when students are in the building which will be 2021.

2021-2022 School Year

Dr. Carter gave an update on the upcoming school year and stated there are still Legislative Bills that could impact the school year. A survey was sent out to parents regarding virtual learning and if there is any interest. At this time over 100 responses including K-12 were received expressing interest. Plans are to send out something over the next week for commitments. Students would have to have reliable internet service and shown success in virtual learning previously.

Plans are looking at how to teach virtual students in a virtual classroom setting. It is difficult to plan without knowing exact numbers. The hopes are to have all students back for five days a week; however, we realize that there are still safety concerns with Covid.

Concerns included not overloading our staff and Dr. Carter shared that possible plans would include having a teacher(s) to handle the virtual classrooms, if numbers allowed.

Questions were asked about the End of Course and End of Grade testing. Dr. Carter shared that the State requires these test to be taken in person and they are underway.

Dr. Carter shared that after reviewing policies and updates in preparation for the updated policies shared with the board today that we are not currently aligned with the North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA). She spoke with the NCSBA and the majority of school districts are aligning their policies with the NCSBA noting when legislative updates are made it is easier to bring the changes to the board for policy updates. Dr. Carter shared she would like to bring a proposal to the board for the NCSBA to assist with the policy conversion and correlation over a 2-3 year timeframe. The board was in agreement to look into this.

ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Owen
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent